

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph extending from page 6, line 21 to page 6, line 31 with the following amended paragraph:

In addition to the goods/services providers **104-106** and clients **109-112**, a priced object provider **120** is coupled to the network **102**. The priced object provider **120** provides priced objects for goods/services of interest to users of client device **108-112**. A priced object is a data object that is able to be used by a user of a client device **108-112** to perform price shopping amongst the various goods/services providers ~~[[104]]~~ 104-~~[[106]]~~ 106. By using the priced object of the present invention, goods/services providers **104-106** must compete with one another for the business of the user, i.e. the potential customer.

Please replace the paragraph extending from page 9, line 19 to page 10, line 7 with the following amended paragraph:

In any of the above embodiments, the priced object is generated by storing one or more of a commonly recognized identifier of the item (such as ~~[[a]]~~ an International Standard Book Number (ISBN), barcode, or the like), a price for the item (which may be ~~inters in terms~~ in terms of monetary units, or a price code), an expiration date for the priced object, an identifier of the goods/services provider that has made the offer, and the like. In some applications, rather than the price, or in addition to the price, of the item, additional incentives offered by the goods/services provider **104** with regard to the item may be included in the priced object. For example, the priced object may include an indicator that a particular item has a mail-in rebate (\$100.00 manufacturer's mail-in rebate), a percentage discount (10% off the price), a tied item that may be purchased at a reduced price (get a free watch with the purchase of this electronic organizer), or the like. In short, any elements of an offer of sale that may be used as a mechanism for bargaining between goods/services providers may be incorporated into the priced object without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

Please replace the Abstract paragraph extending from page 31, line 6 to page 31, line 23 with the following amended Abstract paragraph:

An apparatus, method and computer program product for creating and using a priced object ~~are provided~~. The priced object ~~according to the present invention~~ may include an item identifier, offer terms for the sale of the item, an identifier of the goods/services provider ~~that is making the offer~~, and ~~authentication~~ information for authenticating the priced object. The priced object may be ~~generated and stored for later use~~ used by a client device when performing on-line shopping with another goods/services provider. The other goods/services provider may authenticate the priced object ~~to verify that the priced object is not fraudulent~~ and may then make determinations as to whether to meet or beat the terms of the offer described in the priced object. ~~If the other goods/services provider decides to meet or beat the offer provided in the priced object, the client device may request a new priced object with the other goods/services provider's new offer terms.~~